AMENDMENTS

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 2 and 4 without prejudice and amend claims 1, 6, 8, 10, 12 and 18 as shown below.

1. (Currently Amended) A method for evaluating renal functions, ~~which comprises~~ comprising:

(a) obtaining a biological specimen;

(b) contacting said sample with a reagent comprising an anti-megsin protein antibody;

(c) measuring the amount of megsin protein in said ~~a biological~~ specimen ~~by an antigen-antibody reaction using an anti-megsin protein antibody~~; and

(d) evaluating renal functions by comparing said amount with the megsin protein amount present in a control specimen from a healthy individual.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Original) The method for evaluating renal functions of claim 1, wherein the biological specimen is urine.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Previously Presented) The method for evaluating renal functions of claim 1, wherein the anti-megsin protein antibody is a monoclonal antibody.

6. (Currently Amended) A reagent for diagnosing renal functions, which comprises an anti-megsin protein antibody against the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:11, 12, 14 or 17.

7. (Original) The reagent for diagnosing renal functions of claim 6, wherein the anti-megsin protein antibody is a monoclonal antibody.

8. (Currently Amended) A solid granule for detecting megsin protein in a biological specimen, wherein ~~the granule comprises a solid granule to the surface of which~~ an anti-megsin protein antibody against the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:11, 12, 14 or 17 is bound to the surface of the granule.

9. (Original) The granule for detecting megsin protein of claim 8, wherein the solid granule is magnetic.

10. (Currently Amended) The granule for detecting megsin protein of claim 8, wherein the specific gravity ~~relative density~~ of the solid granule is not ~~smaller~~ less than 1.

11. (Original) The granule for detecting megsin protein of claim 8, wherein the anti-megsin protein antibody is a monoclonal antibody.

12. (Currently Amended) A method for detecting megsin protein in a biological specimen, comprising the following steps of:

(i) contacting said biological specimen ~~the granule of claim 8~~ with a solid granule to the surface of which a first anti-megsin protein antibody is bound ~~the biological specimen~~;

(ii) contacting said granule with ~~a marker molecule having~~ a second anti-megsin protein antibody labeled with a marker molecule to obtain an antigen-antibody complex, wherein the second antibody is against the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:11, 12, 14 or 17 ~~bound thereto~~; and,

(iii) detecting the marker molecule ~~bound to the megsin protein through the second anti-megsin protein antibody~~ in the complex obtained in step (ii),

wherein the first and second antibody are each against the same or different amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:11, 12, 14 or 17.

13. (Original) The method for detection of claim 12, wherein the first anti-megsin protein antibody and the second anti-megsin protein antibody are both monoclonal antibodies.

14. (Original) The method for detection of claim 13, wherein the first anti-megsin protein antibody and the second anti-megsin protein antibody are antibodies having different recognition sites.

15. (Original) The method for detection of claim 12, wherein the biological specimen is urine.

16. (Original) The method for detection of claim 12, wherein the biological specimen is blood.

17. (Previously Presented) A kit for detecting megsin proteins, which comprises the following elements:

(a) the granule of claim 8, wherein the solid granule is magnetic, and

(b) a magnet.

18. (Currently Amended) The kit for detecting megsin proteins of claim 17, further comprising an anti-megsin protein antibody ~~to which~~ labeled with a marker molecule ~~is bound~~.